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# A tale of two galaxies: light and mass in NGC 891 and NGC 7814

F. Fraternali<sup>1</sup>, R. Sancisi<sup>2,3</sup>, and P. Kamphuis<sup>2,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Astronomy Department, University of Bologna, via Ranzani 1, 40127 Bologna, Italy  
e-mail: [filippo.fraternali@unibo.it](mailto:filippo.fraternali@unibo.it)

<sup>2</sup> Kapteyn Astronomical Institute, Postbus 800, 9700 AV, Groningen, The Netherlands

<sup>3</sup> INAF – Astronomical Observatory of Bologna, via Ranzani 1, 40127 Bologna, Italy

<sup>4</sup> Astronomisches Institut, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Universitätsstrasse 150, 44801 Bochum, Germany

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## ABSTRACT

The two edge-on galaxies NGC 891 and NGC 7814 are representative of two extreme morphologies: the former is disk-dominated while the latter is almost entirely bulge-dominated. It has been argued that since the two galaxies, which are optically so different, have similar rotation curves their total mass distributions cannot be related in any way to the light distributions. This would lead to the conclusion that dark matter is the dominating component of the mass. We have derived new rotation curves from recent, high-sensitivity HI observations and have found that the shapes of the rotation curves are significantly different for the two galaxies. They indicate that in NGC 7814 the mass is more concentrated to the centre as compared to NGC 891. This reflects the distribution of light which is more centrally concentrated in NGC 7814 than in NGC 891. Mass and light do seem to be closely related. This is confirmed by the analysis of the rotation curves in mass components: solutions close to the maximum light (bulge + disk) do provide excellent fits. In NGC 891 bulge and disk can explain the rotation curve without any need for dark matter out to  $\sim 15$  kpc. In NGC 7814 the bulge dominates in the inner parts; further out the rotation curve is well reproduced by a maximum disk but its  $M/L$  ratio is excessively high. A substantial dark matter contribution, closely coupled to the luminous component, seems, therefore, necessary.

**Key words.** galaxies: kinematics and dynamics – galaxies: structure – galaxies: individual: NGC 891 – galaxies: individual: NGC 7814

## 1. Introduction

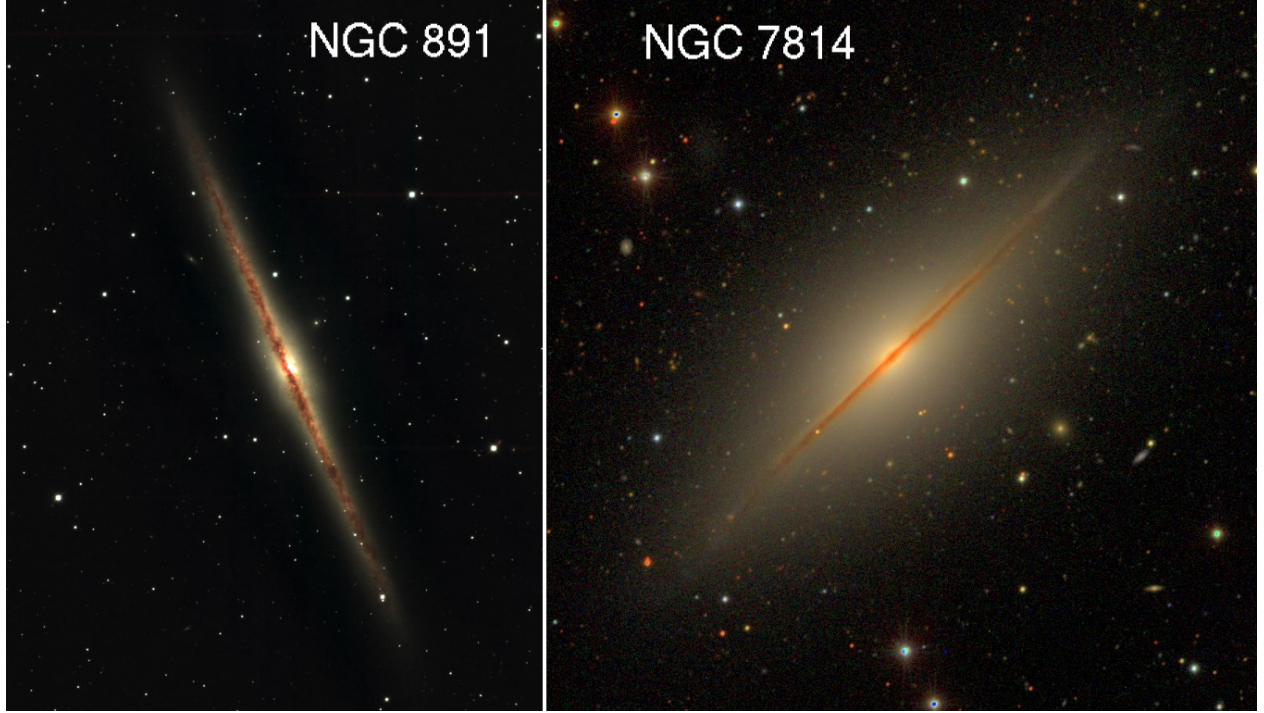
The distribution and relative importance of luminous and dark matter in galaxies are still a matter of debate. The distribution of mass in a spiral galaxy is inferred from its rotation curve. In the past three decades, rotation curves have been derived for a number of spirals of various masses and morphological types. For the interpretation of the rotation curves in terms of mass distribution use has been made of multicolour photometry. The conclusion has been that in the outer parts of galaxies there is a significant discrepancy between the observed curve and the curve predicted from the photometric and gas profiles. Such discrepancy is usually interpreted as evidence for the presence of dark halos around spiral galaxies. For the bright inner parts of the disk, inside  $R_{25}$ , there is no such consensus. There is a range of possibilities from “maximum disks” (Kalnajs 1983; van Albada & Sancisi 1986; Kent 1986) with constant values of the  $M/L$  ratio (implying that luminous matter dominates) to “minimum disks” with dark matter being the dominant component everywhere.

The debate on the relative distribution of luminous and dark matter in spiral galaxies is still open. The comparison between the two edge-on galaxies NGC 891 and NGC 7814 provides a good illustration. These two spirals are representative of two extreme morphologies: a disk-dominated NGC 891 and an almost entirely bulge-dominated NGC 7814 (see Fig. 1). Van der Kruit (1983, 1987, 1995) pointed out that, in spite of this striking difference in their light distributions, these two galaxies have, beyond the central 3–4 kpc, “essentially identical” rotation curves. These curves were measured in the HI 21-cm line but they were

not known inside 1 arcmin (3–4 kpc) because HI emission was not detected there. The conclusion was that “if the distribution of luminous matter were in any way related to the total mass distribution it would not be possible for the disk-dominated and the bulge-dominated galaxies to have such similar rotation curves”. If the two galaxies had indeed rotation curves of such similar shape this would be contrary to the rule that in spiral galaxies there is a close correlation between light distribution and rotation curve shape (Sancisi 2004). The contrast would also exist with non-Newtonian theories of gravity which would predict grossly different rotation curves (van der Kruit 1995). There is little doubt that the light distributions of NGC 891 and NGC 7814 are very different. But, do their rotation curves have indeed essentially identical shapes?

The rotation curves used by Van der Kruit for NGC 891 (Sancisi & Allen 1979) and for NGC 7814 (van der Kruit & Searle 1982) were obtained from HI observations with the Westerbork Synthesis Radio Telescope (WSRT). The rotation curve of NGC 891 was obtained directly from the observations using a velocity “envelope” method, that of NGC 7814 by constructing models. Both curves appear to be flat to a first approximation, but the HI observations, especially for NGC 7814, had poor signal/noise ratios in the central regions and the curves had large uncertainties or could not be derived at all.

In recent years, new HI observations were obtained for these two galaxies with better sensitivity with the WSRT. From these observations we derived new rotation curves. We used *Spitzer* 3.6  $\mu\text{m}$  observations to derive the photometric parameters of the bulge and the disk components and perform mass



**Fig. 1.** *Left:* multi-band ( $Y, J, K$ ) image of NGC 891 obtained with the WIRCam at the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope (CFHT). *Right:* multi-band ( $g, r, i$ ) image of NGC 7814 from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey.

**Table 1.** Optical and HI parameters for the two galaxies.

Parameter	NGC 891	NGC 7814	Ref.
Morphological type	Sb/SBb	Sab	1, 2, 3
Centre ( $\alpha$ J2000)	2 <sup>h</sup> 22 <sup>m</sup> 33.41 <sup>s</sup>	0 <sup>h</sup> 03 <sup>m</sup> 14.89 <sup>s</sup>	
( $\delta$ J2000)	42°20′56.9″	16°08′43.5″	
Distance (Mpc)	9.5	14.6	1 <sup>a</sup>
$L_B$ ( $L_{\odot,B}$ )	$2.5 \times 10^{10}$	$1.3 \times 10^{10}$	3 <sup>b</sup>
$L_K$ ( $L_{\odot,B}$ )	$7.8 \times 10^{10}$	$6.4 \times 10^{10}$	4
$R_{25}$ in $B$ -band (kpc)	18.6	9.6	3, 5
$R_{20}$ in $K$ -band (kpc)	10.4	7.2	4
Systemic velocity (km s <sup>-1</sup> )	528 ± 2	1043 ± 4	6, 7
Total HI mass ( $M_{\odot}$ )	$4.1 \times 10^9$	$1.1 \times 10^9$	6, 7
HI inclination (°)	≥89	~90	6, 7
1 arcmin = (kpc)	2.76	4.25	7

**Notes.** <sup>(a)</sup> More recent determinations of the distances of NGC 891 and NGC 7814 using the tip of the red giant branch are fully consistent with these values, i.e.  $9.1 \pm 0.4$  Mpc and  $14.8^{+0.7}_{-0.6}$  Mpc respectively (Radburn-Smith et al. 2011). <sup>(b)</sup> Corrected for internal and Milky Way extinction.

**References.** (1) van der Kruit & Searle (1981); (2) Garcia-Burillo & Guelin (1995); (3) de Vaucouleurs et al. (1991); (4) Jarrett et al. (2003); (5) Abazajian et al. (2004); (6) Oosterloo et al. (2007); (7) this work.

decompositions. We were able to reach new conclusions on the relative distribution of luminous and dark matter, which differ from those mentioned above.

## 2. Derivation of the rotation curves

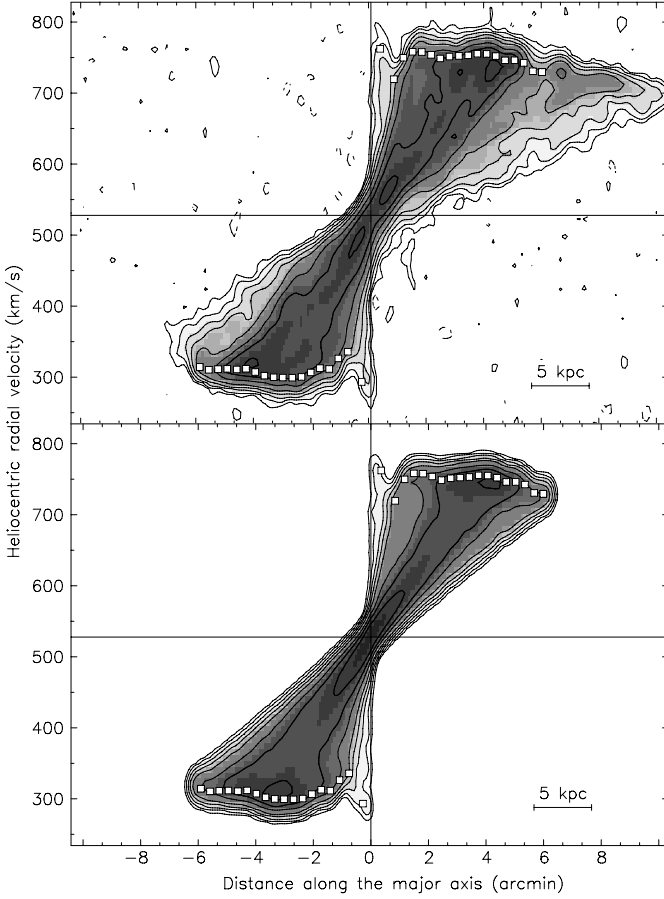
For NGC 891 we used the HI observations by Oosterloo et al. (2007) and for NGC 7814 those obtained by Kamphuis (2008). The latter consist of  $4 \times 12$  h integration with the WSRT (September 2004). The reduction was done with the MIRIAD

package and standard calibration was applied. The result is a data cube consisting of 160 channels with a spatial resolution ( $FWHM$ ) of  $54.5'' \times 12.9''$  and with a velocity spacing of  $4.12 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ .

The derivation of the rotation curves was done in two steps. A first estimate was obtained by taking the envelope on the high rotational velocity side of the position-velocity diagram along the major axis. For a description of the method and a discussion of the uncertainties involved see Sancisi & Allen (1979). The rotational velocity was derived by fitting Gaussian functions with fixed dispersions to the high rotational velocity sides of the line profiles (i.e. the lowest radial velocities on the approaching side and the highest on the receding one). It was assumed that the gas is in circular motion, that there is gas emission at the line of nodes and that the velocity dispersion is constant and equal to  $8 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . Subsequently this rotation curve was used, together with the observed radial HI density profile, as input for the modelling of the data cube. This was done by assuming concentric rings. Each ring has its own rotational velocity and gas density. The inclination angle is fixed to  $90^\circ$ , determined by modelling the HI datacube. The position angle was measured using the total HI map and the *Spitzer* data, the values agreed within  $<0.5^\circ$ . There is no evidence for a change of more than  $2^\circ$  in position angle and  $4^\circ$  inclination out to the outer radius from which the rotation curve is derived (for NGC 891 see also Oosterloo et al. 2007). The effect on the rotation curves of these changes would be less than  $1 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ .

The gas density as a function of  $R$  was obtained by deprojecting the total HI maps. The model position-velocity diagram was compared (by eye) with the observed one. When necessary, the initial input values of the rotational velocity were changed and the procedure was iterated until a satisfactory matching of model and observations was reached. This was done independently for the two sides of the galaxies. The final adopted rotation curves are shown plotted on the position-velocity maps

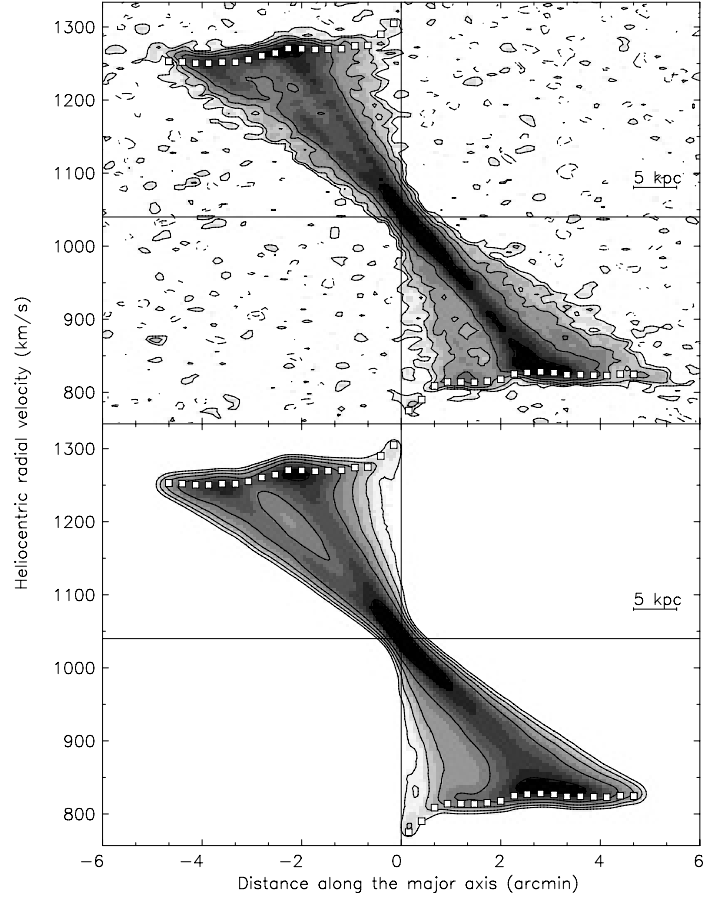




**Fig. 2.** *Upper:* position-velocity diagram along the major axis of the edge-on galaxy NGC 891. The squares show the rotation curves derived separately for the approaching and the receding side. The contour levels are: 0.2, 0.45, 1.0, 2.0, 4.0, 10, 20, 40 mJy beam<sup>-1</sup>. *Lower:* position-velocity diagram along the major axis for the model galaxy. The model has been constructed for the symmetric part of the disk. 1 arcmin = 2.76 kpc.

(Figs. 2 and 3). The averaged curves are shown in Fig. 4. For each point, the error is the larger between the formal error of the fit and an uncertainty due to asymmetries between the approaching and the receding sides. The latter was calculated assuming that the difference between the two sides corresponds to a  $2\sigma$  deviation (Swaters 1999).

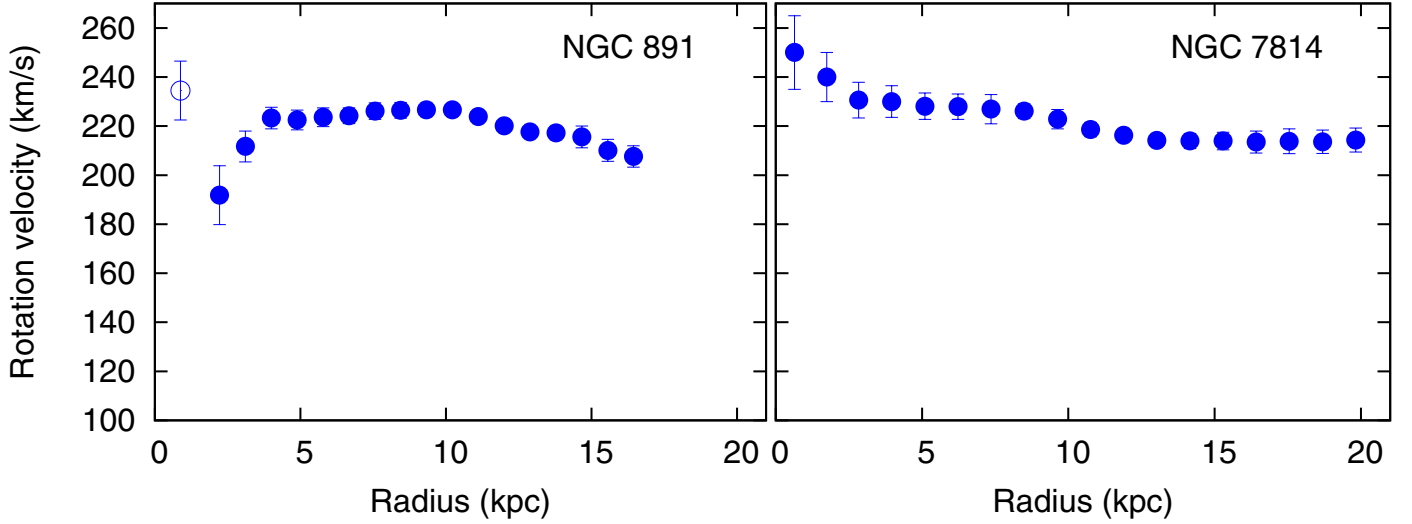
The HI disk of NGC 891 is known to be lopsided (Baldwin et al. 1980). On its southern receding side, it has an extended tail (Fig. 2) at a lower radial velocity with respect to the central part of the disk. However, this decrease in radial velocity does not necessarily mean a decline in rotational velocity. As pointed out by Sancisi & Allen (1979) it could be due to the location of the gas away from the line of nodes. Also, it is possible that non-circular motions dominate in these outer parts where the galaxy becomes so asymmetric. We derived, therefore, the rotation curve only for the symmetric part, inside  $\sim 6$  arcmin ( $\sim 17$  kpc) from the centre (Table 2). The sharp rise and peak near the centre ( $R \lesssim 1$  kpc) indicate the presence of a fast rotating inner HI disk or ring. Although this seems the straightforward explanation the possibility of a bar and associated non-circular motions cannot be ruled out (Garcia-Burillo & Guelin 1995). However, in the present data there is no indication of non-circular motions. Just outside this central disk or ring the



**Fig. 3.** *Upper:* position-velocity diagram along the major axis of the edge-on galaxy NGC 7814. The squares show the rotation curves derived separately for the approaching and the receding side. The contour levels are: 0.5, 1, 2, 4, 10, 20 mJy beam<sup>-1</sup>. *Lower:* position-velocity diagram along the major axis for the model galaxy. 1 arcmin = 4.25 kpc.

rotation curve is not well defined due to some beam-smearing and blending with the emission from the inner disk. The second point shown here is, therefore, rather uncertain. We used different density distributions for the inner ring and estimate an error of about  $12 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . In these central parts, the rotation curve is slightly asymmetrical: on the receding side it is somewhat steeper. Further out the approaching and receding rotational velocities are the same within  $<10 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . The rotation curve derived here differs from that obtained by Sancisi & Allen (1979) especially in the inner parts where the higher sensitivity observations by Oosterloo et al. (2007) used here show the inner steep rise and the fast-rotating component. The radial extent is about the same.

The rotation curve of NGC 7814 (Table 3) has a very steep rise near the centre followed by a slow decline which becomes a little more pronounced beyond 2 arcmin ( $\sim 8$  kpc). The curve in the inner 3 kpc from the centre is not accurately determined because of the poor signal/noise ratio. We estimate an error of about  $15 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . The value of the rotational velocity near the centre (first two points) could be higher than given here. The third point of the rotation curve is well determined (see Fig. 3). There are no large asymmetries; only at large distances from the centre the two sides of the galaxy are not completely symmetrical. Figure 3 shows that there are differences in the HI density distribution and also in the kinematics. On the approaching side



**Fig. 4.** The rotation curves of NGC 891 and NGC 7814. The open symbol for NGC 891 outlines some potential contribution from non-circular motions in the centre.

**Table 2.** Rotation curve of NGC 891.

Radius (arcmin)	Radius (kpc)	$v_c$ ( $\text{km s}^{-1}$ )
0.32	0.88	$234.5 \pm 12.0$
0.80	2.22	$191.8 \pm 12.0$
1.13	3.11	$211.7 \pm 6.3$
1.45	4.00	$223.3 \pm 4.4$
1.77	4.89	$222.5 \pm 4.0$
2.09	5.78	$223.6 \pm 3.8$
2.41	6.67	$224.2 \pm 3.2$
2.73	7.56	$226.1 \pm 3.4$
3.06	8.44	$226.4 \pm 3.2$
3.38	9.33	$226.6 \pm 2.7$
3.70	10.22	$226.6 \pm 2.7$
4.02	11.11	$223.9 \pm 2.4$
4.34	12.00	$220.1 \pm 2.4$
4.66	12.89	$217.6 \pm 2.3$
4.99	13.78	$217.2 \pm 2.8$
5.31	14.67	$215.6 \pm 4.4$
5.63	15.56	$210.1 \pm 4.5$
5.95	16.44	$207.6 \pm 4.4$

**Table 3.** Rotation curve of NGC 7814.

Radius (arcmin)	Radius (kpc)	$v_c$ ( $\text{km s}^{-1}$ )
0.15	0.64	$250.0 \pm 15.0$
0.41	1.74	$240.0 \pm 10.0$
0.67	2.83	$230.6 \pm 7.3$
0.93	3.96	$230.0 \pm 6.5$
1.20	5.10	$228.1 \pm 5.4$
1.47	6.23	$227.9 \pm 5.2$
1.73	7.36	$226.9 \pm 5.9$
2.00	8.49	$226.1 \pm 3.0$
2.27	9.63	$222.8 \pm 3.9$
2.53	10.76	$218.6 \pm 2.9$
2.80	11.89	$216.2 \pm 2.6$
3.07	13.02	$214.2 \pm 2.6$
3.33	14.16	$213.9 \pm 3.1$
3.60	15.29	$213.9 \pm 3.6$
3.87	16.42	$213.5 \pm 4.5$
4.13	17.55	$213.8 \pm 5.1$
4.40	18.69	$213.6 \pm 4.8$
4.67	19.82	$214.3 \pm 4.9$

the rotational velocity begins to drop off around 2 arcmin from the centre whereas on the receding side the decrease seems to start a little further out. This rotation curve is different from the flat curve derived by Van der Kruit & Searle (1982). Because of the better signal/noise ratio of the new observations it was possible to derive it also in the inner region (within 1 arcmin  $\sim 4$  kpc from the centre) where it has a steep rise to a maximum of  $250 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  at about 0.6 kpc from the centre followed by a slow decline to about  $214 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  in the outer parts. Its radial extent is about the same.

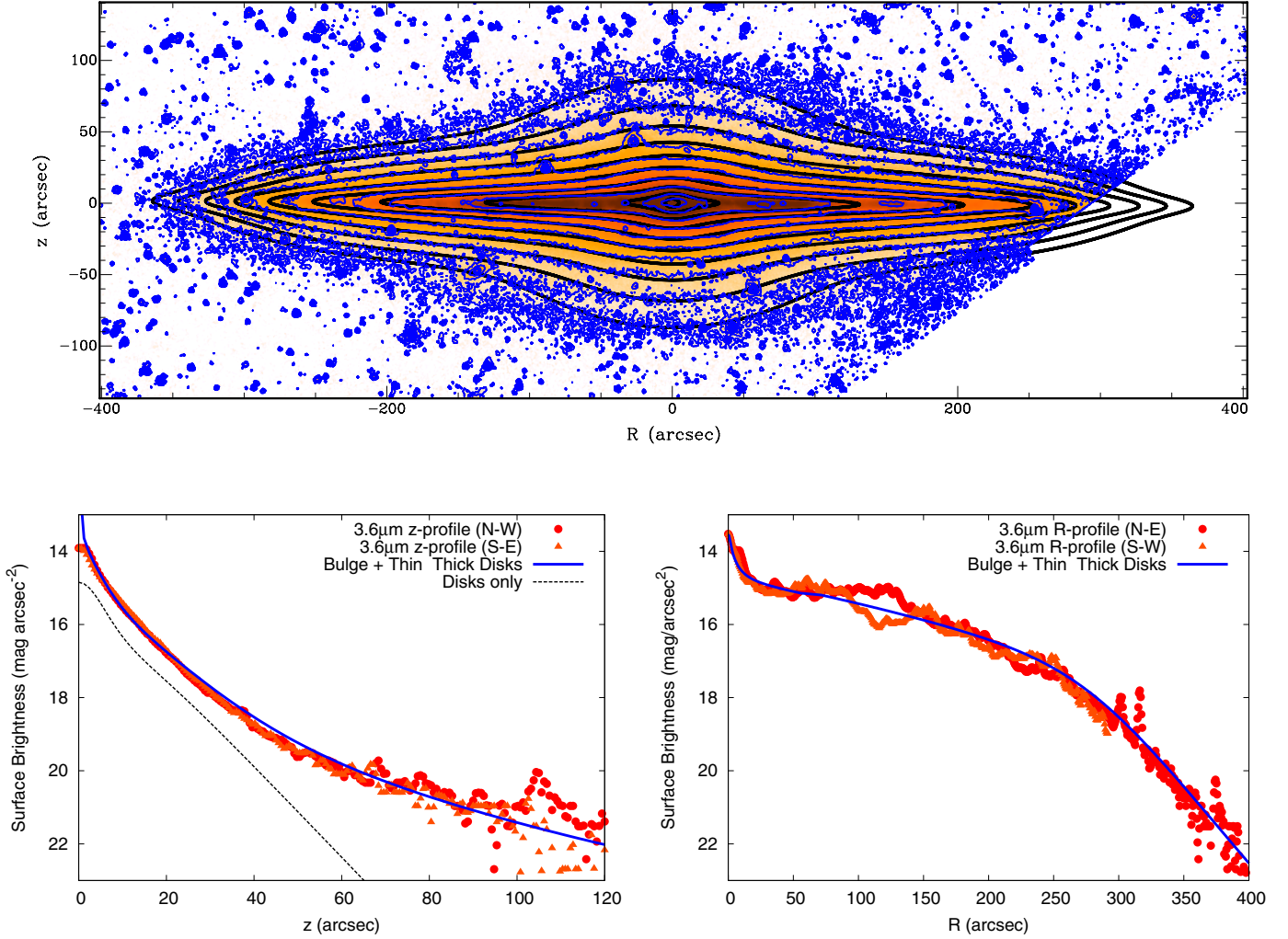
### 3. Comparison of the rotation curves with the distribution of light

The rotation curves for the two galaxies are compared in Fig. 4. They have similar amplitudes but significantly different shapes. The rotation curve of NGC 7814 indicates a more pronounced mass concentration to the centre than in NGC 891. The correspondence with the central concentration of light in NGC 7814

seems evident. Given the potential uncertainties in the interpretation of the first point for NGC 891, we indicate it as an open symbol. In order to further investigate the distribution of the mass as compared to that of the light in the two galaxies we made the standard decomposition of the rotation curves in mass components: bulge, stellar and gaseous disks, and dark matter halo.

#### 3.1. Photometric data

In order to avoid problems with dust extinction we used data in the  $3.6 \mu\text{m}$  band obtained with the *Spitzer* Space Telescope (Werner et al. 2004). Both NGC 891 and NGC 7814 had been observed with the *Spitzer* Telescope and the mosaics were already available in the archive. The observations of NGC 891 had an exposure time of 96.8 s, those of NGC 7814 26.8 s. We converted from the *Spitzer* units of  $\text{MJy sr}^{-1}$  to  $\text{mag arcsec}^{-2}$  in  $3.6 \mu\text{m}$  band assuming an absolute magnitude for the Sun of  $M_{3.6 \mu\text{m}} = 3.24$  (Oh et al. 2008). We applied the surface brightness correction simply by multiplying our fluxes by 0.91 (*Spitzer*



**Fig. 5.**  $3.6\mu\text{m}$  photometry for NGC 891. *Top panel:* distribution of light in the sky in thin (blue) contours overlaid with our best model with bulge and thin and thick disks, see Table 4. *Bottom left:* light distribution along the vertical direction above and below the plane (circles and triangles) compared with our best model (thick blue curve). *Bottom right:* light distribution along the plane of the galaxy (circles and triangles) compared with our best model (thick blue curve).

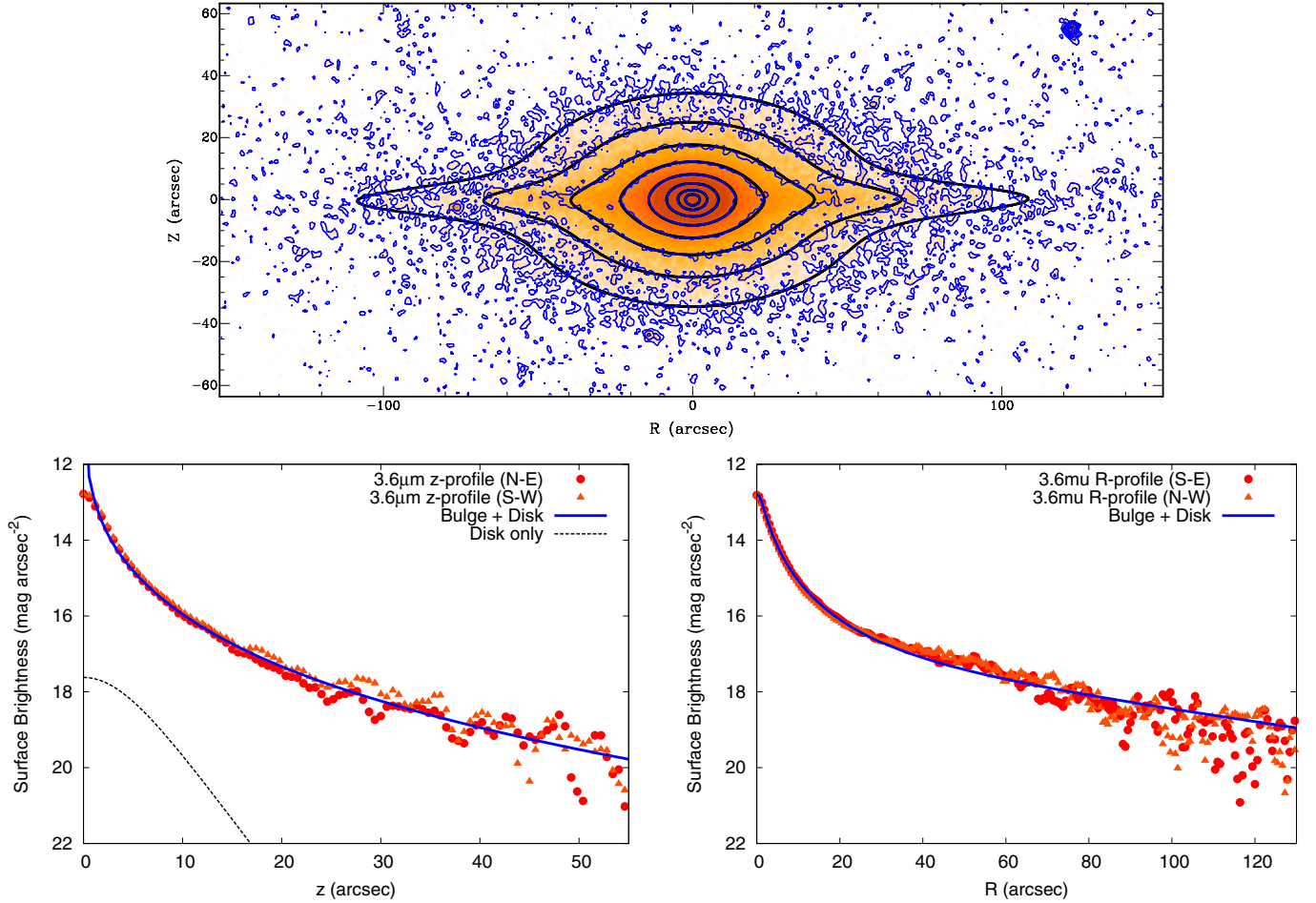
Handbook). We estimated the values of the background in the two images to be 21.06 and 20.70 mag arcsec $^{-2}$  respectively for NGC 891 and NGC 7814. The  $3.6\mu\text{m}$  images for the two galaxies are shown in Figs. 5 and 6.

We performed a bulge-disk decomposition of the stellar light using GALFIT (Peng et al. 2002, 2010). For both galaxies we extracted the psf directly from the image taking a relatively isolated star in the field close to the galaxies. The images were masked in order to exclude stars, background galaxies and spurious features of the CCD. We used a Sérsic profile for the bulge component and a perfectly edge-on disk for the stellar disk. NGC 891 could not be fitted with a single disk but it required both a thin and a thick disk. The presence of two disks had been found also before in other bands (van der Kruit & Searle 1981; Shaw & Gilmore 1989; Xilouris et al. 1998). We note that the functional form of the density distribution in the vertical direction has a strong impact on the properties of the disk(s) required by the fit. At the moment GALFIT allows only for a sech $^2$  vertical density profile, but it is possible that with an exponential profile the two components could have very different parameters or the second disk might even not be required.

In fitting the bulge and the disk(s) we first fixed the centres and the position angles of the various components to the same value. For NGC 7814, we fixed the Sérsic index to 4, i.e. we

assumed a de Vaucouleurs profile; leaving the Sérsic index free gives values very close to 4. In NGC 891 there is a degeneracy between the scale-length of the bulge and the scale-height of the thick disk and, to obtain a satisfactory result, we preferred to fix the latter to a value of  $h_z = 0.8$  kpc. Once these values are fixed, the simultaneous fits of all the other parameters converge for both galaxies.

Figures 5 and 6 show our best photometric models for NGC 891 and NGC 7814 respectively. In both figures the top panels show the light distribution (at  $3.6\mu\text{m}$ ) in color shade and thin (blue) contours from the *Spitzer* mosaic. The thick (black) contours show the GALFIT solutions obtained using two disks + a Sérsic ( $n = 3$ ) bulge for NGC 891 and one disk + a  $r^{-1/4}$  bulge for NGC 7814 (see Table 4). The bottom panels in Figs. 5 and 6 show 1D cuts of the data and the models along the vertical directions (left) and along the plane of the galaxies (right). In the plots perpendicular to the plane we show the data from both sides (circles and triangles), our best model (thick blue curve) and the contribution of the disk only (thin black curve). Note that this latter is completely negligible for NGC 7814. In the plots along the plane for NGC 891 one can appreciate that the disk is not exponential. This shape has been modelled using the truncation function implemented in GALFIT with  $r_{\text{break}} = 120''$  and  $\Delta r_{\text{soft}} = 280''$  (see Peng et al. 2010). The truncation is the



**Fig. 6.** 3.6  $\mu\text{m}$  photometry for NGC 7814. *Top panel:* distribution of light in the sky in thin (blue) contours overlaid with our best model with bulge and disk, see Table 4. *Bottom left:* light distribution along the vertical direction above and below the plane (circles and triangles) compared with our best model (thick blue curve). *Bottom right:* light distribution along the plane of the galaxy (circles and triangles) compared with our best model (thick blue curve).

**Table 4.** *Spitzer* 3.6  $\mu\text{m}$ -band photometric parameters for the two galaxies.

Parameter	NGC 891		NGC 7814
	Thin disk	Thick disk	
$h_R$ (kpc)	4.18	5.13	4.26
$\Sigma_e$ ( $L_{\odot,3.6 \mu\text{m}} \text{pc}^{-2}$ )	443.5	368.9	78.0
$h_z$ (kpc)	0.25	0.80 <sup>a</sup>	0.44
$L_{\text{disk}}$ ( $L_{\odot,3.6 \mu\text{m}}$ )	$4.4 \times 10^{10b}$	$5.1 \times 10^{10b}$	$8.4 \times 10^9$
Sérsic index	2.99		4.0 <sup>a</sup>
$r_e$ (kpc)	1.80		2.16
$I_e$ ( $L_{\odot,3.6 \mu\text{m}} \text{pc}^{-2}$ )	525.8		$1.12 \times 10^3$
$q$	0.68		0.61
$L_{\text{bulge}}$ ( $L_{\odot,3.6 \mu\text{m}}$ )	$2.2 \times 10^{10}$		$7.0 \times 10^{10}$

**Notes.** <sup>(a)</sup> Fixed in the fit; <sup>(b)</sup> calculated out to  $R = 17$  kpc without considering the truncation.

same for both the thin and the thick disk. The disk of NGC 7814 does not require any truncation.

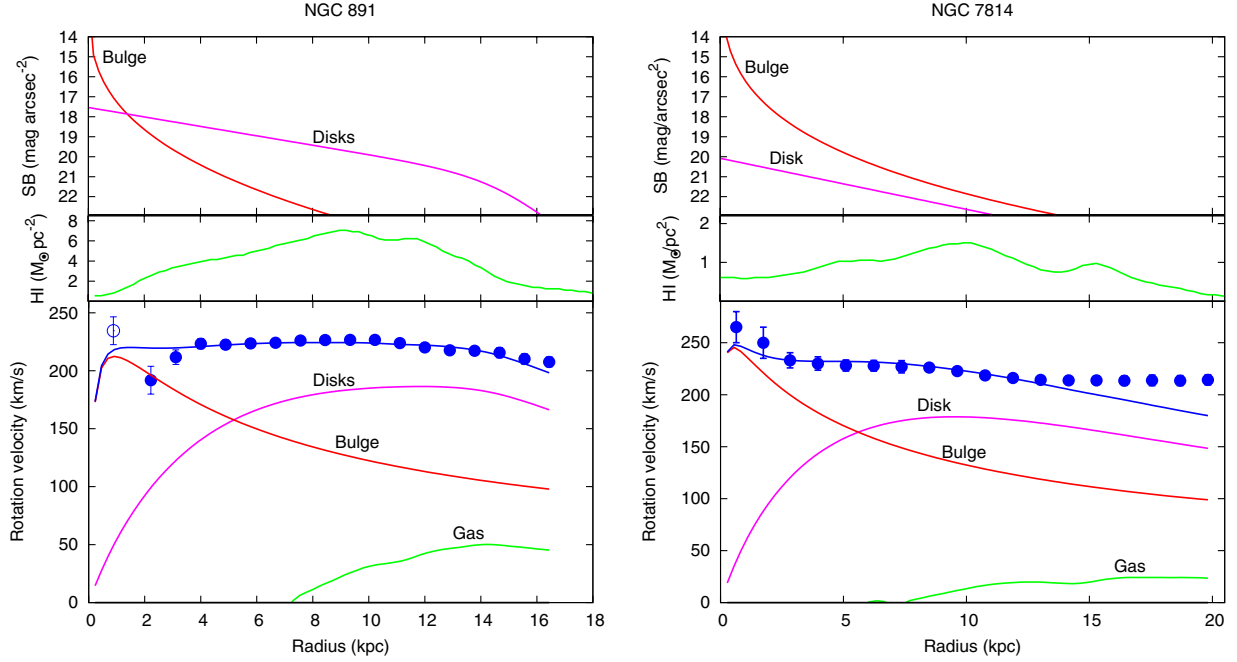
Table 4 gives the photometric parameters of the fits shown in Figs. 5 and 6. Since our rotation curve fitting routine requires a spherical bulge we used a spherical-equivalent effective radius  $r_{e,\text{sph}} = r_e \sqrt{q}$  (geometrical mean) where  $q$  is the axis ratio. The 3.6  $\mu\text{m}$ -band disk and bulge luminosities in Table 4 are calculated out to the last measured points of the rotation curves,

$R_{\text{max}} = 17$  kpc and 20 kpc for NGC 891 and NGC 7814 respectively. The values derived for the NGC 891 disks do not take into account the truncations and are therefore upper limits. As expected, the dominant luminosity component in NGC 891 is that of the disks, about four times brighter than the bulge. On the contrary, in NGC 7814 the bulge is totally dominating with a bulge-to-disk ratio in the 3.6  $\mu\text{m}$ -band of about 9. In  $K$ -band this ratio is about 14 (Wainscoat et al. 1990).

### 3.2. Maximum light (bulge + disk)

Figure 7 (upper panels) shows the 3.6  $\mu\text{m}$ -band photometric profiles adopted for bulge and disk. For NGC 891 the thin and thick disks are combined in a single component with intermediate scale-height. The truncation in GALFIT is applied to the projected edge-on profile and it requires deprojection to a face-on view. If the parameter  $\Delta r_{\text{soft}}$  is small compared to  $r_{\text{break}}$  this can be achieved with good accuracy by simply applying the truncation function to the face-on profile (Peng, priv. comm.). However in our case  $\Delta r_{\text{soft}} > r_{\text{break}}$  and the deprojection is more complex. In order to find a functional form for the face-on truncation we built several mock edge-on truncated disks with GALFIT and deproject the light profiles using the “Lucy-method” (Warmels 1988). We then fitted these profiles with exponential disks multiplied by the GALFIT truncation function. We found that good





**Fig. 7.** Rotation curve decompositions for NGC 891 and NGC 7814. *Top panels:* surface brightness profiles at  $3.6\mu\text{m}$  for the bulge and the stellar disks built from the parameters of Table 4 (for NGC 891 the two disks have been added). *Middle panels:* HI surface density. *Bottom panels:* best fit without a dark matter halo, the  $M/L$  ratios of bulge and disk components are given in Table 5.  $1\text{ kpc} = 21.7''$  and  $33.4''$  for NGC 891 and NGC 7814 respectively.

results are obtained using for the face-on view the same  $\Delta r_{\text{soft}}$  as for the edge-on view but a  $R_{\text{break}}(\text{face-on}) \approx r_{\text{break}} + \frac{1}{e}\Delta r_{\text{soft}}$ . The effect on the light profile is shown in the upper left panel of Fig. 7.

The bottom panels of Fig. 7 show the rotation curve decompositions for NGC 891 and NGC 7814 using the above  $3.6\mu\text{m}$ -band photometry. We show here the maximum light (bulge + disk) solutions for both galaxies. The fit was obtained by fitting simultaneously the  $M/L_{3.6\mu\text{m}}$  ratios of bulge and disks to the points inside about 3 scale-lengths ( $\sim 15\text{ kpc}$  for NGC 891 and  $\sim 13\text{ kpc}$  for NGC 7814) as it is customary for maximum light tests (van Albada et al. 1985). The gas surface density (middle panels) was multiplied by a factor 1.4 to account for Helium. The fitting parameters are given in Table 5.

In the fit for NGC 891 the bulge dominates in the inner parts and accounts for the steep rise and the inner peak of the rotation curve. The first point of the rotation curve was included in this fit in spite of the uncertainties about its nature and origin pointed out above. However, the bulge  $M/L$  and the quality of the fit would not change significantly, first point included or not. At larger radii, beyond  $\sim 5\text{ kpc}$ , the disk dominates. Its contribution to the total mass is about three times as large as that of the bulge. The shape of the rotation curve is remarkably well reproduced out to the last point. There is no discrepancy between observed and model curve and no dark matter halo is required here. This, however, is not too surprising. The rotation curve is not very extended: it is not traced beyond the bright optical disk and out to radii where usually the halo becomes conspicuous. The values obtained for the  $M/L$  ratios of bulge and disk (Table 5) seem reasonable (cf. Verheijen 1997).

In conclusion, for NGC 891 a maximum light (bulge+disk) solution is quite satisfactory. Bulge and disk together are able to explain the rotation curve. Their relative contributions, however, are uncertain given the mentioned degeneracy between bulge and thick disk. It is clear, at any rate, that in NGC 891 the disk,

**Table 5.** Fits to the rotation curves.

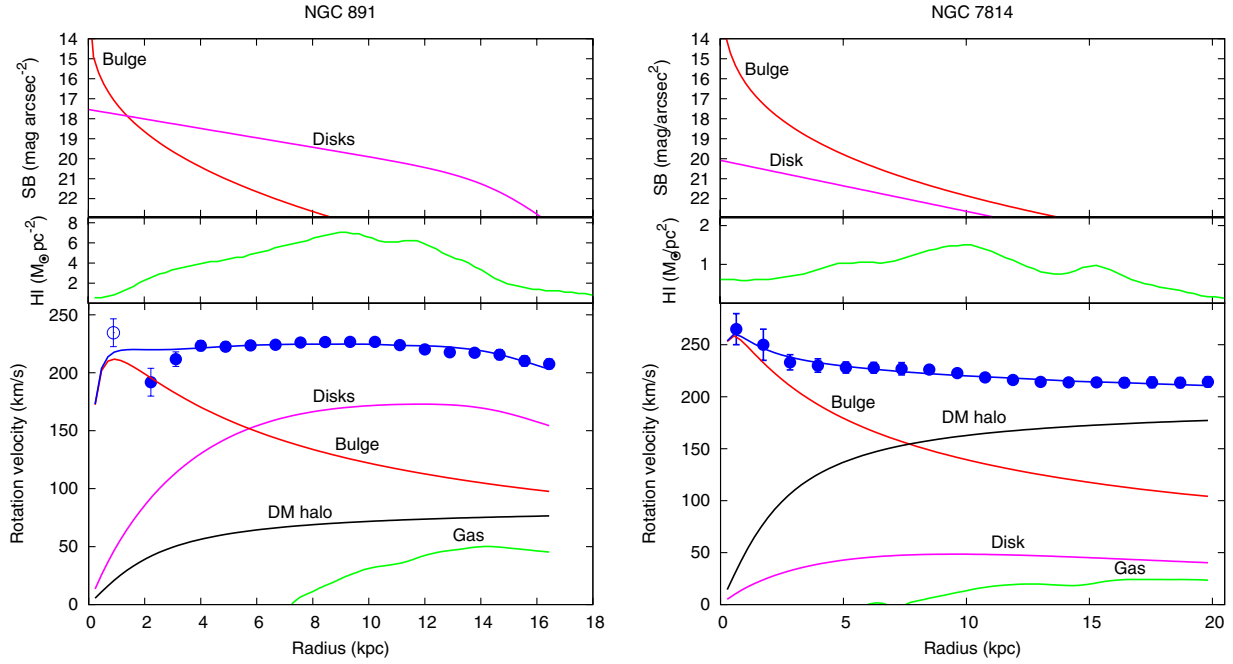
Parameter	NGC 891	NGC 7814
Maximum light		
Bulge $M/L_{3.6\mu\text{m}}$	$1.64 \pm 0.07$	$0.64 \pm 0.03$
Disk $M/L_{3.6\mu\text{m}}$	$0.90 \pm 0.02$	$9.25 \pm 0.27$
Reduced $\chi^2$	1.05 <sup>a</sup>	0.59 <sup>a</sup>
Isothermal halo		
Bulge $M/L_{3.6\mu\text{m}}$	$1.63 \pm 0.25$	$0.71 \pm 0.05$
Disk $M/L_{3.6\mu\text{m}}$	$0.77 \pm 0.16$	$0.68 \pm 0.94$
DM halo $\rho_0 (10^{-3} M_\odot \text{pc}^{-3})$	$33.1 \pm 16.0$	$152.4 \pm 95.7$
DM core radius $r_0$ (kpc)	$1.9 \pm 4.4$	$2.1 \pm 0.6$
Reduced $\chi^2$	1.30	0.39

**Notes.** <sup>(a)</sup> Referred to the radial range where the fit is performed (within 3 scale-lengths), see text.

which is responsible for most of the light, contributes also the largest part of the mass.

In the NGC 7814 maximum-light decomposition the bulge dominates in the inner parts. Bulge and disk together provide an excellent fit to the rotation curve out to  $R \sim 13\text{ kpc}$ . Beyond that, a mild discrepancy begins to show up between observed and model curve. This is the kind of discrepancy found in the outer parts of spiral galaxies and usually interpreted as evidence for the presence of a dark matter halo. The  $M/L_{3.6\mu\text{m}}$  for the bulge is close to normal, whereas that for the disk is unrealistically high. An alternative to such a heavy “dark” disk would be a substantial contribution from a dark matter halo (see below). The presence of a massive bulge component in this galaxy is dictated by the shape of the rotation curve in the inner parts. The bulge is completely dominant in the inner 5 kpc. In conclusion, a maximum light solution for NGC 7814 provides an excellent fit for most of the rotation curve (out to 13 kpc) but it requires an unrealistically high  $M/L_{3.6\mu\text{m}}$  for the disk. A dark matter (DM)





**Fig. 8.** Rotation curve decompositions for NGC 891 and NGC 7814. *Top panels:* surface brightness profiles at  $3.6\mu\text{m}$  for the bulge and the stellar disks built from the parameters of Table 4 (for NGC 891 the two disks have been added). *Middle panels:* HI surface density. *Bottom panels:* best fit with an isothermal dark matter halo, the parameters of the fits are given in Table 5.  $1\text{ kpc} = 21.7''$  and  $33.4''$  for NGC 891 and NGC 7814 respectively.

component is, therefore, needed for the region of the disk and to account for the discrepancy in the very outer parts. Clearly, there is for NGC 7814 a disk/halo degeneracy.

### 3.3. Fits with isothermal DM halos

The maximum light solutions investigated above are useful to understand the possible connection with the light distribution and the role played by baryons. They show that the distribution of light and that of mass are very similar inside each of the two galaxies. Here we add dark matter halos to the fits and model the DM distribution as a standard isothermal sphere (van Albada et al. 1985). We fit the four parameters ( $M/L$  ratios and halo parameters) simultaneously. The resulting fits are shown in Fig. 8 and the values of the parameters are given in Table 5. Using a NFW profile (Navarro et al. 1997) would not change significantly our results. The best-fit values of the concentration parameters are above 10 for both galaxies. If we fix them to  $c = 10$  we obtain  $M/L$  ratios comparable to those in Table 5, except for the  $M/L$  of the disk in the free fit of NGC 7814, which becomes  $M/L_{3.6\mu\text{m}} = 2.7$ ; if however we fix this latter to 0.7 the fit is still acceptable.

In NGC 891 the results are very similar to those obtained above with the maximum light solution. The fit is still excellent. The values for the  $M/L_{3.6\mu\text{m}}$  of bulge and disk differ only slightly and the dark halo plays a minor role. The exclusion of the first point of the rotation curve in the fit would not make any difference.

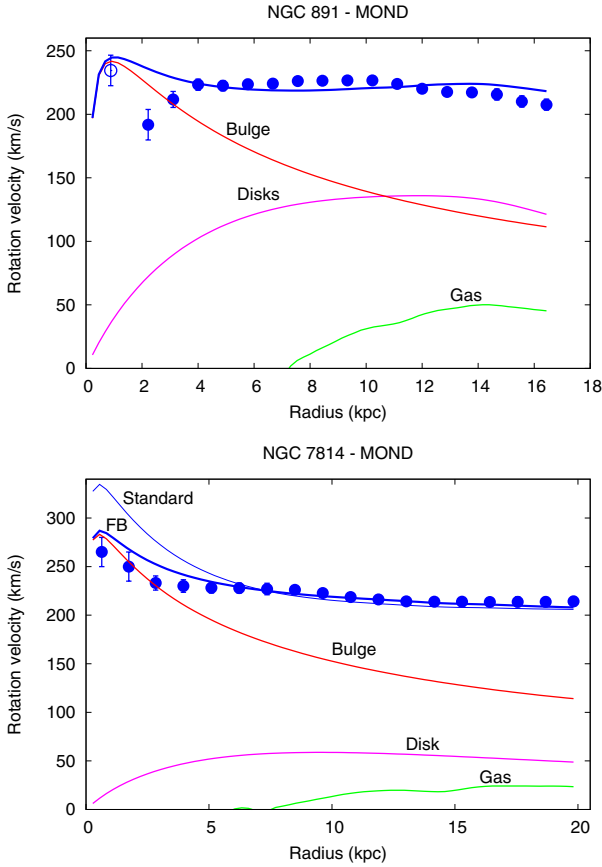
NGC 7814 is more puzzling than NGC 891 because of the disk/halo degeneracy. However, a fit with all four parameters ( $M/L$  ratios and halo parameters) free converges and gives acceptable results. The bulge is still dominant in the inner 7–8 kpc and very close to maximum with only a minimal change in  $M/L_{3.6\mu\text{m}}$ . Further out, the halo now completely dominates in the place of the disk.

These results clearly indicate that the two main luminous components in the two galaxies, the disk in NGC 891 and the bulge in NGC 7814, are closely linked to the distributions of mass as traced by the rotation curves.

### 3.4. MOND

We also compared both rotation curves with the predictions from the MODified Newton Dynamics (MOND) (Milgrom 1983). The rotation curve of NGC 891 is reproduced, using the standard value of  $a_0 = 3700\text{ km}^2\text{ s}^{-2}\text{ kpc}^{-1}$  with best-fit  $M/L$  ratios for the bulge and disk components of 2.0 and 0.5 respectively. The result is shown in the upper panel of Fig. 9. The quality of this fit is however not very good leading to a reduced  $\chi^2$  of 4.8.

For NGC 7814 a MOND fit with free  $M/L_{3.6\mu\text{m}}$  ratios for the bulge and disk components requires for the latter a very high value of 4.6. This is needed to fit the outer parts of the rotation curve. In this case the  $M/L_{3.6\mu\text{m}}$  of the bulge is 0.77. If the  $M/L_{3.6\mu\text{m}}$  of the disk is kept fixed to a more acceptable value of 1, the MOND fit using the standard interpolation function of Milgrom (1983) is not acceptable ( $\chi^2 = 7.2$ ). The bottom panel of Fig. 9 shows the model predictions for this function (thin curve) and also for the so-called “simple” function of Famaey & Binney (2005). Clearly this second function gives a much better fit ( $\chi^2 = 1.3$  bulge  $M/L_{3.6\mu\text{m}} = 0.83$ ). We also used the “simple” function for NGC 891 but we did not find a significant improvement of the fit (disk  $M/L_{3.6\mu\text{m}} = 0.23$ , bulge  $M/L_{3.6\mu\text{m}} = 1.9$ ,  $\chi^2 = 4.1$ ). In order to make the fit with the standard interpolation function compatible with the data of NGC 7814, the distance to this galaxy should be increased by a factor  $\sim 1.5$ . This is not compatible with the new error determination that allows, at  $3\sigma$ , an increase of at most 15% (Radburn-Smith et al. 2011). To improve significantly the fit of NGC 891’s rotation curve the distance should be decreased by a factor  $>2$ , incompatible with the new determinations.



**Fig. 9.** Comparison between the rotation curves of NGC 891 and NGC 7814 and the MOND predictions. For NGC 7814 we show the predictions obtained using the standard interpolation function (thin blue curve) and the so-called “simple” (FB) function of Famaey & Binney (2005) (thick blue curve).

#### 4. Conclusions

The two galaxies NGC 891 and NGC 7814 are representative of two extreme morphologies, with the disk dominating in NGC 891 and the bulge almost entirely dominating in NGC 7814. We have derived new rotation curves for both. Contrary to previous reports (van der Kruit & Searle 1982; van der Kruit 1983), the shapes of these curves are found to be significantly different. They indicate that in NGC 7814 the mass is more concentrated to the centre as compared to NGC 891. It resembles, therefore, the distribution of the luminosity, which is more centrally concentrated in NGC 7814 (bulge) than in NGC 891 (disk).

A decomposition in bulge, disk and halo shows that in NGC 891 the disk is the major mass component. The bulge contributes about one fourth of the total dynamical mass. In NGC 7814 the bulge dominates almost entirely the total luminosity (90 percent of total). In the distribution of mass it is undoubtedly the dominant component in the inner parts. In the outer parts the dark matter halo takes over. The disk, unless it has an unrealistically high  $M/L$  ratio, seems to be a minor component.

Standard MOND fits do not work perfectly for both galaxies. NGC 7814 is well fitted by the “simple” interpolation function (Famaey & Binney 2005).

We conclude that in both galaxies, in their bright optical parts, the distribution of mass seems to follow closely the distribution of light. This implies that either the baryons dominate or the dark matter is closely coupled to the luminous component. It would be interesting to repeat the same study on galaxies with extreme morphologies such as NGC 7814 and NGC 891 but seen at lower inclination angles.

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